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JS 44 (Rev. 07/16)

#### **CIVIL COVER SHEET**

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS				DEFENDANTS						
Jeremy Sommers, 212 West Hazard Street, Summit Hill, PA				Rafael Adames, 96 Butler Street, Apt. 2A, Paterson, NJ, 07524						
Totally Sommers, 212 West Hazard Street, Bailling 111				Pambros Transport Corp., 319 O'Brien Street, Kearny, NJ 07032						
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Carbon County				County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Passaic County						
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)				(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)  NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.						
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)				Attorneys (If Known)						
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)  Chad E. Rankin, Esquire, Rankin & Gregory, LLC, 2173 Embassy										
	Phone No. (717) 406-32	=	Diive,	Chkhown.						
II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)				TIZENSHIP OF PI (For Diversity Cases Only)	RINCIPA	L PARTIES	(Place an "X" in o and One Bo			
☐ 1 U.S. Government	_			PTF DEF PTF DEF						
Plaintiff	(U.S. Government Not a Party)		Citize	Citizen of This State 🔲 1 Incorporated or Principal Place 🗍 4 🗍 4 of Business In This State						
2 U.S. Government Defendant	X 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizensh	ip of Parties in Item III)	Citize	en of Another State	2 🛛 2	Incorporated and of Business In		□ 5	▼ 5	
				en or Subject of a  reign Country	3 🗆 3	Foreign Nation		□ 6	□6	
IV. NATURE OF SUIT	$\Gamma$ (Place an "X" in One Box Or	ıly)								
CONTRACT		RTS		RFEITURE/PENALTY		KRUPTCY	1	STATUT		
☐ 110 Insurance ☐ 120 Marine ☐ 130 Miller Act	PERSONAL INJURY  ☐ 310 Airplane ☐ 315 Airplane Product	PERSONAL INJURY  ☐ 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability		5 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 0 Other	☐ 423 With	al 28 USC 158 drawal SC 157	val 376 Qui Tam (31 USC			
☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument ☐ 150 Recovery of Overpayment	Liability  ☐ 320 Assault, Libel &	367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical			PROPER	RTY RIGHTS	☐ 400 State R		ıment	
& Enforcement of Judgment	Slander	Personal Injury			■ 820 Copy	rights	430 Banks		ng	
☐ 151 Medicare Act ☐ 152 Recovery of Defaulted	330 Federal Employers' Liability	Product Liability  368 Asbestos Personal			□ 830 Paten □ 840 Trade		☐ 450 Comm ☐ 460 Deport			
Student Loans	340 Marine	Injury Product					470 Racket		ced and	
(Excludes Veterans)  ☐ 153 Recovery of Overpayment	345 Marine Product Liability	Liability PERSONAL PROPER	TV 171	LABOR 0 Fair Labor Standards	SOCIAL	SECURITY (1395ff)	Corrup 480 Consur	t Organiza mer Credit	tions	
of Veteran's Benefits	350 Motor Vehicle	370 Other Fraud		Act	862 Black	Lung (923)	490 Cable/	Sat TV		
☐ 160 Stockholders' Suits ☐ 190 Other Contract	355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability	☐ 371 Truth in Lending ☐ 380 Other Personal	□72	0 Labor/Management Relations	□ 863 DIW	C/DIWW (405(g))	850 Securit		odities/	
☐ 195 Contract Product Liability	360 Other Personal	Property Damage		0 Railway Labor Act	865 RSI (		☐ 890 Other 5	Statutory A		
☐ 196 Franchise	Injury  ☐ 362 Personal Injury -	☐ 385 Property Damage Product Liability	□75	1 Family and Medical Leave Act			891 Agricu			
	Medical Malpractice			0 Other Labor Litigation			895 Freedo			
REAL PROPERTY 210 Land Condemnation	CIVIL RIGHTS  440 Other Civil Rights	PRISONER PETITION Habeas Corpus:	<b>S</b> □ 79	1 Employee Retirement Income Security Act		AL TAX SUITS s (U.S. Plaintiff	Act 896 Arbitra	ation.		
220 Foreclosure	441 Voting	463 Alien Detainee		income security Act	1—	efendant)	899 Admin		ocedure	
☐ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment ☐ 240 Torts to Land	442 Employment	☐ 510 Motions to Vacate				-Third Party		view or Ar	opeal of	
240 Torts to Land 245 Tort Product Liability	443 Housing/ Accommodations	Sentence  530 General			26 U	SC 7609	Agency 950 Constit	y Decision tutionality	of	
290 All Other Real Property	☐ 445 Amer. w/Disabilities -	☐ 535 Death Penalty		IMMIGRATION	1		State S	-		
	Employment  446 Amer. w/Disabilities -	Other: 540 Mandamus & Othe	r 1746	2 Naturalization Application 5 Other Immigration	]					
	Other	550 Civil Rights	"   ¬	Actions						
	448 Education	555 Prison Condition 560 Civil Detainee -								
		Conditions of								
		Confinement								
V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in		<del>-</del>								
	te Court	Appellate Court	4 Reins Reop	ened Another (specify	r District	6 Multidistr Litigation Transfer	1-	Multidis Litigatio Direct F	n -	
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	Cite the U.S. Civil Sta	tute under which you ar	e filing (1	Oo not cite jurisdictional stat	utes unless di	iversity): 28 U.S	S.C. § 133	2		
	Brief description of ca	Motor vehicle	collisio	n causing injuries to	pedestria	n.				
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT: CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.				CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: 1 excess of \$150,000.00  CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: 1 JURY DEMAND: Yes No						
VIII. RELATED CASI IF ANY	E(S) (See instructions):	JUDGE			DOCKE	T NUMBER			-	
DATE March 3, 2017	SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD									
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			1	77						
	MOUNT	ADDI VINICI IED		HIDGE		3440 111	DCE			
ALCLII I T	MOONI	APPLYING IFP		JUDGE		MAG. JU	DOE			

#### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

\_\_\_\_\_

JEREMY SOMMERS

212 West Hazard Street Summit Hill, PA 18250

Plaintiff

v.

RAFAEL ADAMES 96 Butler Street, Apt. 2A Paterson, NJ 07524

Defendant

and

PAMBROS TRANSPORT CORP. 319 O'Brien Street Kearny, NJ 07032

Defendant

**CIVIL ACTION** 

NO.

**COMPLAINT** 

Plaintiff, Jeremy Sommers, by and through his attorney, Chad E. Rankin, Esquire, RANKIN & GREGORY, LLC, does hereby file the instant Complaint upon the following cause:

#### **PARTIES**

- 1. Plaintiff, Jeremy Sommers (hereinafter referred to as "SOMMERS") is an adult individual and citizen of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, residing therein at 212 West Hazard Street, Summit Hill, PA 18520.
- 2. Defendant, Rafael Adames (hereinafter referred to as "ADAMES") is an adult individual and citizen of the state of New Jersey, residing therein at 96 Butler Street, Apt. 2A, Paterson, NJ 07524.
- 3. At all times material hereto, Defendant, ADAMES, acted and/or failed to act in his individual capacity and by and through his duly authorized agents, servants, workmen and/or

employees, who were acting within the course and scope of their employment(s) and/or authority(ies); the same direct, apparent, implied and/or ostensible, and by virtue of said agency, at all times material, Defendant, ADAMES, is also vicariously liable for said acts and/or failure to act.

- 4. Pambros Transport Corp. (hereinafter referred to as "PAMBROS"), is a corporation, incorporated in the state of New Jersey, with their corporate headquarters located at 319 O'Brien Street, Kearny, NJ 07032.
- 5. At all times material hereto, Defendant, PAMBROS, acted and/or failed to act in its corporate capacity and by and through its duly authorized agents, servants, workmen, employees, and/or contractors, who were acting within the course and scope of their employment(s) and/or authority(ies); said agency including, but not limited to actual, implied, apparent and/or ostensible agency; and by virtue of said agency; at all times material, Defendant, PAMBROS, is also vicariously liable for the negligence and breach of duty(ies) of said agents, servants, workmen, employees, and/or contractors as more fully set forth herein.

#### **JURISDICTION & VENUE**

6. Jurisdiction and venue are proper in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania since the parties are residents of different states, the amount in controversy is above \$150,000.00, and the incident occurred within said district.

#### **FACTS**

- 7. Paragraphs 1 through 6 of this instant Complaint are hereby incorporated as though the same were set forth at length herein.
- 8. On or about October 27, 2015, at approximately 10:15 a.m., SOMMERS was performing road work on the shoulder of the northbound lane of I-476, Upper Milford Township, Pennsylvania while in the course and scope of his employment with the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission.

- 9. On or about October 27, 2015, at approximately 10:15 a.m., ADAMES was operating a tractor trailer, while in the course and scope of his employment with PAMBROS, in the left northbound lane of I-476, Upper Milford Township, Pennsylvania when he suddenly, and without clearance, veered into the right northbound lane of I-476, colliding with another tractor trailer.
- 10. As a result of the collision caused by Defendant, ADAMES, the fuel tank detached from the tractor trailer ADAMES was permissively operating and struck the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission's legally parked work truck, exploding upon impact and causing injuries, damages, and losses to SOMMERS, as more fully set forth hereinafter.

### <u>COUNT I - NEGLIGENCE</u> JEREMY SOMMERS v. RAFAEL ADAMES

- 11. Paragraphs 1 through 10 of the instant Complaint are hereby incorporated as though the same were set forth at length herein.
- 12. At all times material hereto, the aforesaid incident and resulting injuries, damages and losses sustained by Plaintiff, SOMMERS, as more fully set forth hereinafter, were directly and proximately caused by the negligent conduct of the Defendant, ADAMES, as more particularly described herein.
- 13. The negligence of the Defendant, ADAMES, consisted of the following non-exclusive particulars:
  - a. failure to exercise reasonable care under the circumstances;
  - b. failure to reasonably operate and/or control a motor vehicle;
  - c. failure to maintain a reasonable and/or adequate outlook in the operation of a motor vehicle;
  - d. operating a motor vehicle in a reckless and/or unlawful manner;
  - e. failure to take reasonable action to avoid the instant collision;
  - f. failure to reasonably react to and/or respond to traffic patterns and conditions under the circumstances;

- g. failure to keep an appropriate lookout for motor vehicles on the roadway;
- h. failure to avoid striking a vehicle;
- i. failure to reasonably maintain, inspect and/or otherwise provide for the safe operation of a motor vehicle;
- j. failure to reasonably pay attention to traffic;
- k. failure to avoid causing a collision;
- 1. failure to yield under the circumstances;
- m. operating a motor vehicle at an unreasonable and/or unsafe rate of speed under the circumstances;
- n. failure to remain in his own lane of travel;
- o. careless and/or reckless driving;
- p. failure to pay attention while driving under the circumstances; and
- q. violation of the statutes of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania governing the operation of motor vehicles, including but not limited to, those statutes encompassing the acts of negligence contained within all the subparagraphs of paragraph 13 (a) through 13 (p), all of which rendering negligence per se, including but not limited to, 75 Pa. C.S.A. §3309, 75 Pa. C.S.A. §3714, and 75 Pa. C.S.A. §4107.
- AS a direct and proximate result of the aforesaid negligent conduct of the Defendant ADAMES, SOMMERS was caused to sustain injuries, damages, losses including injuries and damages including, but not limited to, blast injuries, burns, concussion, bilateral hearing loss, tinnitus, psychological injuries, post-traumatic stress disorder, insomnia, superior labral tear extending anterior to posterior, mild degenerative changes of the acromioclavicular joint,, bilateral shoulder injuries, bilateral pars defect in the L5 vertebra with associated grade 2 anterolisthesis of L5 over S1 with severe bilateral foraminal narrowing, moderate bilateral foraminal narrowing at L4-5 level with diffuse disc bulge with prominent epidural fat with moderate central canal narrowing, mild central canal narrowing at L3-L4 level with facet proliferative changes and mild disc bulge, back pain, back injuries,

myalgia, right knee injuries, bilateral knee contusions, balance issues, exacerbation of a pre-existing injuries, and injuries in and about the muscles, ligaments, tissues, nerves, bones, and/or joints, some of which said injuries and/or damages are and/or maybe continuous and/or permanent in nature with additional concomitant injuries, damages and losses resulting therefrom.

- 15. As a direct and proximate result of ADAMES'S negligence, Plaintiff, SOMMERS has been cause to suffer and/or will and/or may also continue to suffer the following damages:
  - a. past, present and future pain and suffering;
  - b. past, present and future emotional suffering;
  - c. past, present and future physical limitations and loss of use of the injured and damaged parts of his person;
  - d. past, present and future loss and/or impairment of earnings, earnings benefits and/or earning capacity;
  - e. future loss of the ability to carry out his customary and/or duties and activities;
  - f. past, present and future medical expenses, to the extent authorized by law;
  - g. past, present and future loss of daily enjoyment of life and life's pleasures;
  - h. humiliation and embarrassment;
  - i. scarring disfigurement; and
  - j. additional injuries, damages and losses.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, Jeremy Sommers, demands judgment against Defendant, Rafael Adames, in an amount in excess of \$150,000.00, plus interest, costs and additional relief as this Honorable Court deems appropriate.

### <u>COUNT II- NEGLIGENCE</u> JEREMY SOMMERS v. PAMBROS TRANSPORT CORP.

16. Paragraphs 1 through 15 of the instant Complaint are hereby incorporated as though the same were set forth at length herein.

- 17. At all times material hereto, the aforesaid collision and the resulting injuries, damages and losses sustained by Plaintiff, as more fully set forth hereinafter, were directly and proximately caused by the negligent conduct of the Defendant, PAMBROS, as more particularly described herein.
- 18. PAMBROS owned the vehicle that was permissively driven by ADAMES at the time of the subject collision.
- 19. The negligence of the Defendant, PAMBROS, consisted of the following non-exclusive particulars:
  - a. those acts of negligence contained in sub-paragraphs 13 (a) through and including 13 (q), as referenced and incorporated herein, by virtue of the vicarious liability of the Defendant PAMBROS for the negligence of Defendant ADAMES;
  - b. failure to warn ADAMES of the condition and/or manner of operation of the aforesaid vehicle operated by ADAMES under the circumstances;
  - c. failure to reasonably maintain, repair, inspect, and/or otherwise provide for the safe operation of the motor vehicle operated by ADAMES under the circumstances;
  - d. negligent entrustment of the aforesaid vehicle to Defendant ADAMES by Defendant PAMBROS when PAMBROS knew or should have known and/or discovered that said entrustment was unreasonable and/or unsafe under the circumstances;
  - e. violation of the statutes of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania governing ownership of motor vehicles, including without limitation, those statutes encompassing the acts of negligence contained within all the subparagraphs of paragraph 13;
  - f. negligence at law and/or negligence per se; and
  - g. such other acts and/or failures to act under the circumstances.
- 20. As a direct and proximate result of the aforesaid negligent conduct of the Defendant, PAMBROS, Plaintiff, SOMMERS was caused to sustain injuries, damages, losses including injuries and damages including, but not limited to, blast injuries, burns, concussion, bilateral hearing loss, tinnitus, psychological injuries, post-traumatic stress disorder, insomnia, superior labral tear extending

anterior to posterior, mild degenerative changes of the acromioclavicular joint,, bilateral shoulder injuries, bilateral pars defect in the L5 vertebra with associated grade 2 anterolisthesis of L5 over S1 with severe bilateral foraminal narrowing, moderate bilateral foraminal narrowing at L4-5 level with diffuse disc bulge with prominent epidural fat with moderate central canal narrowing, mild central canal narrowing at L3-L4 level with facet proliferative changes and mild disc bulge, back pain, back injuries, myalgia, right knee injuries, bilateral knee contusions, balance issues, exacerbation of a pre-existing injuries, and injuries in and about the muscles, ligaments, tissues, nerves, bones, and/or joints, some of which said injuries and/or damages are and/or maybe continuous and/or permanent in nature with additional concomitant injuries, damages and losses resulting therefrom.

- 21. As a direct and proximate result of the aforesaid negligence of the Defendant,
  PAMBROS, Plaintiff, SOMMERS, been cause to suffer and/or will and/or may also continue to suffer
  the following damages:
  - a. past, present and future pain and suffering;
  - b. past, present and future emotional suffering;
  - c. past, present and future physical limitations and loss of use of the injured and damaged parts of his person;
  - d. past, present and future loss and/or impairment of earnings, earnings benefits and/or earning capacity;
  - e. future loss of the ability to carry out his customary and/or duties and activities;
  - f. past, present and future medical expenses, to the extent authorized by law;
  - g. past, present and future loss of daily enjoyment of life and life's pleasures;
  - h. humiliation and embarrassment;
  - i. scarring disfigurement; and
  - j. additional injuries, damages and losses.

#### Case 2:17-cv-01001-MSG Document 1 Filed 03/06/17 Page 9 of 12

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, Jeremy Sommers, demands judgment against Defendant, Pambros

Transport Corp. in an amount in excess of \$150,000.00, plus interest, costs and additional relief as this

Honorable Court deems appropriate.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

RANKIN & GREGORY, LLC

Date: March 3, 2017

By:

Chad E. Rankin, Esquire Attorney I.D. # 87896 2173 Embassy Drive Lancaster, PA 17603

Telephone: (717) 406-3216

Attorney for Plaintiff

## **UNSWORN DECLARATION**

I, Chad E. Rankin, counsel for the Plaintiff, Jeremy Sommers, declare under penalty of perjury that the facts set forth in the foregoing Complaint are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

Date Executed: March 3, 2017

HAD E. RANKIN

# Case 2:17-cv-01001-MSG Document 1 Filed 03/06/17 Page 11 of 12 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

#### CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

CIVIL ACTION Jeremy Sommers NO. v. Rafael Adames and Pambros Transport Corp. In accordance with the Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan of this court, counsel for plaintiff shall complete a Case Management Track Designation Form in all civil cases at the time of filing the complaint and serve a copy on all defendants. (See § 1:03 of the plan set forth on the reverse side of this form.) In the event that a defendant does not agree with the plaintiff regarding said designation, that defendant shall, with its first appearance, submit to the clerk of court and serve on the plaintiff and all other parties, a Case Management Track Designation Form specifying the track to which that defendant believes the case should be assigned. SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CASE MANAGEMENT TRACKS: ( ) (a) Habeas Corpus – Cases brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 through § 2255. (b) Social Security – Cases requesting review of a decision of the Secretary of Health and Human Services denying plaintiff Social Security Benefits. ( ) (c) Arbitration – Cases required to be designated for arbitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2. ( ) (d) Asbestos – Cases involving claims for personal injury or property damage from exposure to asbestos. ( ) (e) Special Management – Cases that do not fall into tracks (a) through (d) that are commonly referred to as complex and that need special or intense management by the court. (See reverse side of this form for a detailed explanation of special management cases.) ( ) (f) Standard Management – Cases that do not fall into any one of the other tracks. (X)

March 3, 2017	Chad E. Rankin	Plaintiff, Jeremy Sommers
Date	Attorney-at-law	Attorney for
(717) 406-3216	(717) 406-3217	chad@rginjurylaw.com
Telephone	FAX Number	E-Mail Address

(Civ. 660) 10/02

# Case 2:17-cv-01001-MSG\_Document 1\_Filed 03/06/17 Page 12 of 12 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM to be used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to appropriate calendar.

assignment to appropriate calendar.					
Address of Plaintiff: 212 West Hazard Street, Summit Hill, PA 18250					
Address of Defendant: 96 Butler Street, Apt. 2A, Paterson, NJ 07032 &	z 319 O'Brien Street, Kearny, NJ 07032				
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: <u>I-476, Upper Milford Township, P</u> (Use Reverse Side For A	ennsylvania.  dditional Space)				
Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporation at	nd any publicly held corporation owning 10% or more of its stock?				
(Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1(a))					
Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities?	Yes□ No⊠				
RELATED CASE, IF ANY:  Case Number: N/A. Judge	Date Terminated:				
Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following questions:					
Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one ye	ear previously terminated action in this court?				
1. Is this case related to properly included in all earner numbered state pending of within one ye	Yes□ No⊠				
2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior s action in this court?	uit pending or within one year previously terminated				
	Yes□ No⊠				
3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier n					
terminated action in this court?	Yes□ No⊠				
4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil right	s case filed by the same individual?				
	Yes□ No⊠				
CIVIL: (Place ✓ in ONE CATEGORY ONLY)					
A. Federal Question Cases:	B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:				
1.   Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts	1. □ Insurance Contract and Other Contracts				
2. □ FELA	2.   Airplane Personal Injury				
3. □ Jones Act-Personal Injury	3. □ Assault, Defamation				
4. □ Antitrust	4. □ Marine Personal Injury				
5. □ Patent	5. N Motor Vehicle Personal Injury				
6. □ Labor-Management Relations	6. □ Other Personal Injury (Please specify)				
7. □ Civil Rights	7.   Products Liability				
8. □ Habeas Corpus	8.   Products Liability — Asbestos				
9. □ Securities Act(s) Cases	9. □ All other Diversity Cases				
10. □ Social Security Review Cases	(Please specify)				
11. □ All other Federal Question Cases  (Please specify)					
ARBITRATION CERT					
I, Chad E. Rankin (Check Appropriate Co					
N Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2), that to the best of my knowledge and					
\$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs;  Relief other than monetary damages is sought.	$\neg$				
2 Roser office that monetary damages is sought.					
DATE: March 3, 2017	87896				
Attorney-at-Law  NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if the	Attorney I.D.# see has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38.				
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any case now pending or	·				
except as noted above.	minimi one year previously terminated action in this court				
	87896				
DATE: March 3, 2017  Attorney-at-Law	Attorney I.D.#				
1 MOTION ALL LAW					

CIV. 609 (5/2012)